

Sandy Creek Bridge
Goldman Vicinity
Jefferson County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1156

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50-GOLD, N,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Gift of James F. O'Gorman 1959, HABS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SANDY CREEK BRIDGE

HABS

NO. MO 1156

HABS

MO.

50-GOLD.V.

Location: Goldman Vicinity, Jefferson County, Missouri. 1-

Present Owner: Jefferson County.

Present Use: Bridge.

Brief Statement of Significance: One of Missouri's last remaining covered bridges.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The bridge was ordered built by the County Court of Jefferson County on May 28, 1872. It has been in continuous use, with the exception of periods when it was closed for repair, until the present time. Owned and maintained by Jefferson County.
2. Date of erection: Original construction June-July, 1872. Contract price: \$2,000.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Architect unknown, probably none. Built by the "House Springs, Big River Valley Macadamized and Gravel Road Company", John H. Morse (1819-1891), President.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: The following is quoted from the County Court Record Book 2 1/2, p. 262 (in the records of Jefferson County, Hillsboro, Mo.):

"Now at this day comes John H Morse and submits proposition to the Court, Build Bridge and approaches to same across Sandy Creek at [Blank] on Section 16 on the Hillsboro & Lemay Ferry Gravel Road for the price and sum of Two Thousand Dolls in Bonds of the County according to the following plan and specifications To wit, The said Bridge to be a first class Howe Truss (Bridge) Seventy Six feet long Sixteen feet high not less than twelve feet in the clear, The Cords [sic] and Braces to be of white pine Lumber of the best quality and the Timbers and Iron Work to be of sufficient strength and capacity to sustain a pressure of Seventy Tons in weight, The Bridge to be covered in with the best of white pine shingles on the Roof and the sides to be covered with good white pine lumber (dressed) and all the joints Battoned and the entire Bridge exposed to wet to be painted with not less than three Coats of paint which proposition being seen and understood is by the Court accepted and the Contract of Building the aforesaid Bridge and the approaches thereto according

to the foregoing plans and specifications is awarded and let to the said John H Morse for the said Sum of Two Thousand Dolls in Jefferson County Court Bonds as aforesaid, subject to the approval and acceptance of the Court or their authorized agent"

5. Notes on alterations and additions: The bridge was substantially rebuilt by Henry Steffin in 1886. The existing concrete piers are a recent addition.
 6. Important old views and references:
Views: None known.
References: James F. O'Gorman, "Sandy Creek Bridge", Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 4, part 1, July, 1959, pp. 296-303.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: None of importance known.
- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

Prepared by James F. O'Gorman - August 1959
Architect, National Park Service

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: An example of a Howe truss wood covered bridge once very common in the United States, but now rapidly disappearing.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very poor; trusses in weakened condition, some siding boards missing.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 76' by 15'6"; rectangular layout; one story.
2. Foundations: Limestone abutments.
3. Wall construction: Bridge is composed of two timber and iron

Howe trusses. These are covered on the side by vertical board siding 12 inches wide butted together and the joints sealed by wood battens. These are fixed to horizontal nailing strips nailed to the outside of the trusses.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads etc.: None.
5. Chimneys: None.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: The portals are square, with the exception of the upper corners where the siding extends down to cover diagonal bracing members.
 - b. Windows and shutters: None.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Low pitch gable roof now covered with corrugated sheet metal, but originally covered with wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: None.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Rectangular roadway.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Wide wood planks.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed trusses on sides; interior of gable is open.
5. Doorways and doors: None.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: None.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The major axis of the bridge runs NE-SW. It spans Sandy Creek in a wooded, somewhat hilly area between surrounding farms.

2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: The bridge is on the "Old Lemay Ferry Road", originally gravel but now blacktop.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: None.

Prepared by James F. O'Gorman - August 1959
Architect, National Park Service

Charles D. Leasing
December 22, 1959
Acting Chief Architect.